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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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DHIA Records Pay

Records may make the difference between profit and loss in managing today's dairy herd.

With his investment in mechanized equipment and his operating costs rising, a dairy farmer needs records to know whether a cow is producing in line with cost of her feed and overhead . . . records to help him cull low producers.

Today the National Cooperative Dairy Herd Improvement Program, coordinated by dairy scientists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, provides this kind of service to the owners of more than 2 million cows.

These dairy farmers, some 1,500 local dairy-herd-improvement associations, the various State Extension Services, and USDA all cooperate to make the national program work. And it does.

The DHIA program has been an important factor in increasing the efficiency and lowering the cost of milk production and in improving herds. In 1906 the first

year in which DHIA was operated, the cows tested produced an average of 5,300 pounds of milk and 215 pounds of butterfat. Cows on the DHIA Standard plan now average 9,894 pounds of milk and 389 pounds of butterfat. The average production for all cows milked in the United States is 6,162 pounds of milk and 235 of butterfat.

In 1935 a nationwide sire-proving plan became a part of the national program. Under this plan the breeding worth of a sire is evaluated or proved by comparing the production of his daughters with the records of their dams. 64,378 sires had been proved as of November 1958.

The National Cooperative Dairy Herd Improvement Program offers dairy farmers a choice of three systematic record-keeping plans. These are the Standard DHIA, Owner-Sampler, and Weigh-a-Day-a-Month.

The Standard DHIA Plan



N-29297-A DHIA supervisor weighs and records one day's milk a month for each cow at the Eshleman dairy farm at Hagerstown, Md. John Eshleman, Jr., whose herd is on the Standard Plan holds the herd record book.

This plan provides the most complete service of the three. The dairy farmer joins a local non-profit association and pays about 40 cents per cow per month for the service. A supervisor hired by the local DHIA visits the dairy farm, weighs milk and feed for each cow, takes milk samples, and enters records for one day each month in the herd record book. The farmer gets help from the supervisor in using the records in feeding, breeding, and culling. At the end of the year the farmer gets a yearly record for each cow. The figures are official and eligible for evaluating herd sires under the National Sire-Proving Program.



N-29306-After each milking the supervisor takes a sample of milk for butterfat tests.



N-29304—The supervisor records weight of grain fed each cow the same day as milk production is recorded.



N-29300—Chopped feed for each animal is also weighed and entered in the herd owner's record book.



N-29299—Here the DHIA supervisor explains to farmer Eshleman how the price of milk in relation to grain may make it more profitable to feed grain at a heavier ratio to roughage.



N-29303—Periodically the DHIA supervisor goes over the records with the herd owner. He also helps the farmer keep a breeding record and record of each cow's calves.

N-29307—Mr. Eshleman gets help from his supervisor in culling unprofitable cows. Based on DHIA records he plans a breeding program so that fewer animals turn out to be poor producers.



Owner-Sampler Plan



N-19099 - In the owner-sampler plan the farmer weighs and records milk and feed amounts for one day each month. He also does his own milk sampling. The plan is operated through a local DHIA and cost of membership is about 25 cents per cow a month.

N - 29792 - The next day the DHIA supervisor calls and tests the milk for butterfat.

N-29794- At the end of the month the supervisor calculates records and sends them to the farmer by mail. The owner-sampler plan records cannot be used for proving sires, since they are not made by a disinterested person.



N - 29792



N - 29794

Weigh-a-Day-a-Month Plan



N - 19097 - The county extension agent enrolls the farmer in the low-cost weigh-a-day-a-month plan and provides him with forms and instructions. The plan is administered nationally and the cost is 5 cents per cow a month.

DEDU-WD-2A
 (10-52)

WEIGH-A-DAY-A MONTH RECORD
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 NUTRITION RESEARCH SERVICE
 STATE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICES COOPERATING

COPY TO SEND TO
 COMPUTING SERVICE

HERD CODE 12-05-8617

OWNER John Doe MONTHLY RECORD FOR March 19 57

ADDRESS Doeville, Rt. #1, Anystate MILK RECORDING YEAR BEGAN March 19 57

FREQ COST 179.00 MILK PRICE 3.75 TEST % 3.8

WEIGH MILK 15TH DAY OF EACH MONTH

BARN NAME OF COW	THIS MONTH			TOTAL FOR YEAR OR SINCE FRESH		COW INDEX NUMBER	WEIGH SHEET FOR MONTH OF		REMARKS DATE FRESH BOUNT. SOLD. DIED, ETC.
	DATE MILK	DAILY LB	TOTAL LB	DAYS IN MILK	MILK LB		DAILY MILK (LB.) A.M.	P.M.	
Star	30	25	750	30	750	001	8	11	
Spot	30	33	990	30	990	002	15	14	
Sally	30	20	600	30	600	003	22	26	Fresh Apr. 18
Blackie	23	32	740	23	740	004	19	22	
Bell	0	0	0	0	0	005	20	25	Fresh Apr. 21
				10	420	006	✓	✓	End May 5

HERD SUMMARY

1. TOTALS BROUGHT FORWARD	COW-MONTHS OR FEED	MILK LB.	TEST %	FAT LB.	VALUE OF MILK (\$DOLLARS)	TOTAL COST OF FEED (\$DOLLARS)	INCOME OTHER (\$DOLLARS)
2. TOTAL FOR MONTH	8	5,540	3.8	211	208.00	141.00	67.00
3. TOTAL TO DATE							
4. AVERAGE FOR MONTH	8	5,540	3.8	211	208.00	141.00	67.00

Dn-1002- The farmer weighs and enters each cow's milk yield for one day each month on the form shown here. He mails the form to his county agent. Although individual butterfat tests are not made, herd milk tests are obtained from the milk plant.



N-19106-Records for each cow, monthly herd totals and year-to-date totals are calculated in the county agent's office or in the office of a tabulating service. The record form is mailed to the dairyman each month with a reminder to weigh again on the same day of the following month.



N-19096-After a few months, information on how much milk each cow gives, helps the farmer to cull the low-producing unprofitable cows in his herd. The record also helps him to feed each cow according to its production.

What Extension Service does

BN-7248X-The State extension dairyman assists in organizing and developing the national DHIA program. Through his office yearly records are sent to Washington for complete calculation and filing. Here a State dairyman helps a group of dairy farmers to analyze their DHIA records.



What Agricultural Research Service does



N-29780-Detailed DHIA records compiled from State summaries are kept in files like these by the Dairy Husbandry Research Branch at Washington, D. C.



N-29778-Herd and sire performance records are electronically calculated in Washington. The dairy researchers plan to install newer improved magnetic tape processing equipment that will bring more detailed records up-to-date at frequent intervals within the year.

Magazines and newspapers may obtain glossy prints of any of these photographs from the Photography Division, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. Others may purchase prints, at \$1.00 each, from the same address.